Funding Available *Now* for Virginia Family Councils

**What:** The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (the “Consumer Voice”) is accepting applications from independent Virginia family councils for mini-grants in the sum of $250 to $1,000 per council.

Through the project Family Councils for Quality Long-Term Care: *Support, Strengthen and Empower*, the Consumer Voice has a limited amount of money to provide funding directly to independent Virginia family councils for the purpose of paying for family council activities, programming and other costs associated with running a family council. Money will be sent by check directly to family councils or a member of the council.

Requirements: Grantees must use all the money for family council purposes, and submit updates twice a year to the Consumer Voice on forms provided by the Consumer Voice.

Further opportunities for grantees: You can share your work and materials with other council members by contributing to periodic e-blasts, calls, or at the Annual Conference in person. Also, learn about other local and national opportunities to get involved.

**Who Can Apply:** Independent family councils at nursing and skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities in the Lynchburg metropolitan and wider Virginia area are encouraged to apply. Family councils who were previously funded through this project and expended their funds may reapply for funding. The Consumer Voice will not accept applications from facilities, facility staff, ombudsmen, etc. Money will be sent directly to the family council contact name listed on the application form.

**How:** Interested family councils can apply for funding using the form on the next three pages.

**Why:** The purpose of this grant is to provide independent family councils with direct funds to pay for family council activities, programming and other costs associated with running a family council. This project gives family councils the opportunity to do activities which they would otherwise be unable to do. For example, your council could:

* Fund speakers’ travel to present

 at council meetings

* Provide refreshments at council

 meetings

* Purchase materials i.e.: paper for council newsletters or fliers
* Attend training sessions
* Create a council listserv

*This is an opportunity for family councils to be creative and to do things to strengthen and empower their group!*

**When:** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the funds are distributed. Councils that receive funding between January and June 2017 must return unspent funds by July 10, 2018, and councils that receive funding between July and December 2017 must return unspent funds by January 10, 2019.

Virginia Family Councils for Quality Long Term Care:

*Support, Strengthen and Empower*

**Application Form**

Use additional space as necessary to complete your responses. The Consumer Voice welcomes the inclusion of supplemental information (i.e. council fliers, brochures, etc.) so we can learn more about your family council!

Please return this completed application and any supplemental materials to:

*Alisha Lineswala, Public Policy and Program Specialist* at:

The Consumer Voice **Or:** alineswala@theconsumervoice.org

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 632 **Or:** 202-332-2275, ext. 204 (phone)

Washington, DC 20036 **Or:** 866.230.9789 (fax)

**Date:**

**Family council *name* and *address*:**

**Facility name, city and state:**

**Is this family council:** (please check one) **\_\_\_\_\_ Active \_\_\_\_\_ Just getting started**

**Family council *contact name*, *title*, *phone* or *email*, and *addres*s:** (This person will receive the checks)**:**

***Name*, *title*, and *phone* or *email* of applicant:** (if different from family council contact):

**Do you currently have, or have you had, a loved one as a resident in the facility?**

**Please list the name and phone number/email of at least 1 other person involved in your family council:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Name phone/email

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Name phone/email

**Family council background:** Please tell us a bit about your family council. i.e.: size, period of time in existence, a copy of bylaws if you have them, regularity of meetings, main issues addressed, future plans, etc. *This information will not be used as criteria when awarding grants.*

**Amount of funds requested** (between $250 and $1,000):

*The amount awarded will be determined by the amount of funds available and the number of requests received. The full amount of your request may be disbursed in more than one installment depending on the nature of the grant.*

**How will the funds will be used: (please fill in chart on next page)**

Please include an *estimate* of the cost of each item/activity you plan to use funding for (please fill in the chart on the next page). *You do not need to provide specific information; just identify a general plan.* This is an opportunity for family councils to be creative and to strengthen and empower their group! Below are some ideas, based on ways in which funded VA family councils have spent their money:

* Create and distribute family council brochures and business cards
* Send postage-paid cards to family members asking for their contact information
* Post a bulletin board in the facility publicizing council meetings and activities
* Host a Residents’ Rights resident luncheon with a speaker
* Hold employee recognition events to honor exemplary staff
* Hold an evening of fun and games for residents
* Host a luncheon meeting with family council leaders from nearby facilities to discuss common issues and concerns
* Purchase vests displaying the family council name to wear around the facility to generate questions and conversation

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| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
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**Please share other comments about your family council and this grant:**

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Alisha Lineswala,

Public Policy & Program Specialist:

202.332.2275, ext. 204 or alineswala@theconsumervoice.org